



2011 Accomplishments / 2012 Goals



A Trail of Trails

Designated as a national scenic trail in 2009, the 215-mile New England Trail (NET) includes portions of four largely contiguous trails: the Mattabesett, Menunkatuck and Metacomet Trails in Connecticut and parts of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts. Marked with blue blazes in Connecticut and white in Massachusetts, the NET is an easy path to follow.

The principal trail stewards of the NET are the staff and volunteers of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) in Connecticut and the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) in Massachusetts. They are assisted by the National Park Service in managing, protecting, restoring and caring for this true New England treasure. For further information, including guides and maps, please visit www.newenglandtrail.org.

*Enjoying the scene
from Ragged Mountain,
Berlin, CT (A. Colson)*

NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total Trail
215 miles

New/Enhanced Trail
3.5 miles

Enjoying the Trail
12 thru-hikers and
countless others

Caring for the Trail
300 Volunteers

Giving Time to the Trail
9,085 volunteer hours

Valuing Volunteer Time
\$182,000

Community Partnerships
\$2,594,600 in support
of trail land protection
and maintenance

Welcoming Hikers
New Trail Shelter in Northfield;
6 Trailhead Kiosks and
9 Trailhead Signs



*center: Bare Mountain, South Hadley (M. Zlogar);
top: Penwood State Park (C. Ross);
middle: Volunteer Scott Smith
at a rigging training, (C. Cain, CFPA);
bottom: Northfield shelter (C. Tracy, NPS)*

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When I mentioned that perhaps the Monadnock section might have fewer twists and turns than the Metacomet, he laughingly shook his head and said that the Monadnock had plenty of both.”

“Pluggger John” Stough
New England National Scenic
Trail Journal 2010



A Growing Trail Community

In reflecting on the completion of a remarkable second year of trail activities, the signs of tangible progress, like the NET’s blue and white painted blazes, are easy to find: restored trail on Mt. Tom, a beautiful trailside shelter in Northfield, and new conservation partners helping to preserve the trail. Year two in the NET calendar shows many reasons to celebrate and many volunteers to thank. What is less visible, but more important, is the growing network of people who care deeply about the NET and special places connected by it. Thank you for helping us to continually improve the trail experience.

Blazing Forward: 2012 Goals

Our steadfast aim is to provide the best possible experience—safe, friendly, inspiring, memorable—for everyone who hikes the NET. Progress toward that goal in 2012 will include:

- Enhancing, preserving, and improving access to the NET
- Improving connections to the NET community, with a special focus on reaching students through our “Trails to Every Classroom” pilot program
- Publishing of a new NET brochure and undertaking a significant upgrade to our website
- Providing skills training opportunities for trail volunteers
- Organizing guided trail walks, trail restoration projects, and other special events for new trail users, volunteers, and the 39 NET communities



Enhancing the Trail Experience

NEW SHELTER AND KIOSKS: During the fall, Barbara and Sam Richardson, with help from 15 AMC Berkshire Chapter volunteers, constructed a new enclosed shelter for NET hikers. This beautiful shelter, sited in Northfield, Massachusetts and protected by a conservation easement generously donated by the Richardsons, affords sweeping mountaintop views in all directions. In Connecticut, trail visibility and navigation were enhanced by new kiosks at Mount Higby, Penwood State Park, Ragged Mountain, Seven Falls and Tynan Park trailheads, and the Route 80 trailhead in Guilford and another at Rising Corners in Southwick, Massachusetts. Additional trail identification signs were installed at nine smaller trailheads.

TRAIL RESTORATION AND TRAINING: Last spring, 40 volunteers donated over 645 hours to rehabilitate 1 mile of severely eroded trail on Mt. Tom State Reservation, work which included restoration of historic stairs built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. This much-needed project was ably coordinated by Trailwrights in collaboration with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. In Connecticut, CFPA trail volunteers received specialized training in low-impact trail construction, including highline rigging techniques.



Student Conservation Association:
 This summer, SCA's Community Crew visited Mt. Higby to learn about the NET and lend a hand with trail improvements (K. Bshara, SCA).

Connecting with Young People

TRAILS TO EVERY CLASSROOM: A proven strategy for connecting young people to the NET is Trails to Every Classroom, which offers professional development and inspiration for educators. The goal is to integrate place-based study of the NET's natural and cultural resources with concepts in ecology, botany, geology and civics. Initially developed for schools along the Appalachian Trail, Trails to Every Classroom is now being piloted for its applicability to the NET. For more information, contact Lori Brant at CFPA (lbrant@ctwoodlands.org).

FLAT STANLEY HIKE SERIES ON THE NET: This family-oriented series of discovery walks, led by our intrepid CFPA intern and volunteer Erin Lewis, set out to find Flat Stanley and to learn about the trail's natural surroundings. Seven hikes were conducted for families this year. Young hikers enjoyed the adventure and are excited to continue exploring the trail.

(FLAT STANLEY® is a registered trademark based on the character, stories, and adventures of Flat Stanley created by the late Jeff Brown of Stonington, CT.)

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2011: The NET was again featured on 25 hikes in Connecticut as part of National Trails Day, including an interpretive walk to a replica collier's hearth in Rockland Preserve in Madison, and an adventure nature walk in Guilford's East River Preserve.



NEW ENGLAND TRAIL
www.newenglandtrail.org
www.nps.gov/need

Contact

CLARE CAIN

Trail Stewardship Director
 Connecticut Forest & Park Association
ccain@ctwoodlands.org
 860.346.2372



JOSHUA SURETTE

New England National Scenic Trail Planner
 Appalachian Mountain Club
jsurette@outdoors.org
 413.835.0410



CHARLES TRACY

National Park Service
charles_tracy@nps.gov
 617.223.5210

